

WESTLAKE/PRAIRIEVIEW
Neighborhood Planning Council #10
Draft Meeting Minutes
November 23, 2009

Call to Order & Welcome:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Koteles. Instead of an Invocation there was a moment of Silence.

Attendance:

Members Present: Chairman Jeff Koteles, Vice Chairman Joe Ratti, Secretary Mary Lou Ramon, Pete Francisco, Cal Canfield, Linda Patenaude, Mary Lyn Smith, Gary Dodd, Karol Henegar, Julie Davis, Commissioner Bill Morris, and Dave Weaver. (12 Members Present)

Excused: Joanne Novelli, David Wood, Cecil Salinas, John Behrendt, Gary Blagg, Teri Mitchel, Jim Walbeck, Opal Bell, Cramutolo, Dwight Grandgenett, Rita Grandgenett, Diana Cole, Len Spano, Neils Magnusson, Steve Barker, Kathy Barker, Joyce Garrett, and Nancy Slocum.

Special Guests Present: Calhoun County Commissioner Lisa Garow, Mayor Susan Baldwin, Ward #4 Commissioner Elizabeth Fulton, Ward #5 Commissioner Andy Yankama, Ward #1 Commissioner Chris Simmons, Martin Brenner, Samantha Pearl (Calhoun County Health Department), Jim Baldwin, Steve Jenkins and Amy Hamilton. (10 Guests Present)

Non-Members Present: BCPD Sgt. Victor Pierce, BCPD Officer Stephanie Estree, and Code Supervisor Marcie Gillette. (3 City Staff Members Present)

Grand Total Present: 25 Members, Guests & Staff Present

Additions or Deletions to Agenda: None.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

It was moved by David Weaver, supported by Vice Chair Joe Ratti and carried to approve the minutes of the October 2009 meeting of this council.

Police Reports:

Sgt. Pierce explained the crime states for the month of October 2009. There were 12 Break-ins in November, 13 Larcenies from Vehicles, 12 Larcenies of Properties, 10 Retail Frauds/Shoplifting, 5 Malicious Destruction of Property, 1 CCW, 1 Loitering(?), 5 VPHC, and 2 Aggravated Assaults. Some of the VPHC were related to Meth Amphetamine use. Sgt. Pierce would be retiring on January 2nd after 30 years with the BCPD to take on the new role of Chief of Police of Barry Township. Sgt. Jim Graftin would be replacing Sgt. Pierce as the district supervisor for this area.

Correspondence, Announcements & Public Service Announcements from Commissioners:

Mayor Susan Baldwin started that she was very busy acclimating herself to her new role

and encouraged members to call her any time with concerns.

Commissioner Fulton thanked all those who voted for her and also encouraged anyone to call her with concerns.

Commissioner Yankama thanked the residents of Ward 5 for reelecting him and congratulated Susan on becoming the new mayor and stated that he looked forward to working with all the new commissioners.

Commissioner Simmons welcomed the new commissioners and stated that he looked forward to working with them all. He also thanked the commission for electing him Vice Mayor.

Commissioner Morris thanked the voters who elected him.

County Commissioner Lisa Garow congratulated all the commissioners on their being elected. The county had just received some Stimulus money; \$9,700,000.00 of which \$7,000,000.00 was planned on being used to update all the county buildings. Lisa would also be volunteering with the Boys and Girls Club at the Prairieview Elementary School.

Committee Chair Reports:

Membership:

Secretary Mary Lou Ramon, filling in for Opal Bell, stated that several members had called to be excused.

Beautiful Battle Creek Award:

Secretary Mary Lou Ramon, filling in for Joanne Novelli, stated that the council had submitted addresses through February 2010.

CDAC: They had held their introductory meeting this year and the committee would be deliberating on how to disburse \$200,000.00 (15%) of the \$540,000.00 the city would receive in Community Development Block Grant Funds for 2010. They will be holding their Interview meeting on Saturday, December 5th, at 8:00am in the Chamber Board Room at Commerce Point. This meeting would be open to the public. There would also be around \$180,000.00 allocated for housing rehab this year.

Planning Commission Report:

Commissioner Chris Simmons, filling in for Steve Barker, stated that Planning Commission's meeting scheduled for Wednesday November 18th was more of an organizational meeting as they were undecided how to fill the vacancies owing to the various commissioners already seated who were no longer in office and that there was no other business before them at this time. He also stated that the new director of the Planning Department, Chris Hilton, had been appointed to the Planning Commission.

City Staff Report:

Neighborhood Services:

Marcie Gillette handed out code reports for this council, stating that there had been 22 enforcement's of code violations this past month and took questions from members regarding the new enforcement of having five police calls in a rolling 12 month time period resulting in an arrest of the occupant, or related to the property, happening at a rental now causing the rental permit to be suspended or sanctions placed on it. Owners would be notified at the point that three complaints had occurred. Also, 83 Charles E. Place was reported as being vacant and having numerous stray cats abiding there and garbage strewn about. The members wanted to know the status of this property. Members also wanted to know what the process for selecting members of the Rental Housing Board of Appeals. Members wanted to know who appointed these persons and it was stated by Marcie that the commission made those appointments.

Old Business:

a. Woodland Park Report: Commissioner Bill Morris, filling in for Joyce Garrett, stated that their sign for the entrance on Helmer Road was installed and that there had been fires set on some of the trails.

b. Airport Sound Study: Linda Patenaude stated that there was nothing new to report.

c. Columbia Avenue BID Report: Bill Morris stated that they were promoting Columbia Avenue Businesses with coupon books advertising local entities along Columbia Avenue, between 20th Street and M 66 and that K-Pep members were working to clean the roadways near M 66.

New Business:

a. Chairman Koteles appointed Joyce Garrett, Linda Patenaude and Vice Chair Joe Ratti to the Nominating Committee. Linda Patenaude would chair this committee.

b. It was motioned and seconded and approved to set the meeting schedule for this council for the calendar year with meetings to be held the fourth Monday of the month from January 2010 through November 2010.

Special Presentation:

Samantha Pear gave a brief overview of the county's health care offerings for area residents.

Comments for the Good of the Order:

Public Comments: None

Member Comments:

Comments were made regarding Code and the lack of rental inspections; 3% less than before the enactment of 1463, a request was made for a complete list of rental properties in Battle Creek, and several members mentioned storm water run off in area ponds being a problem. It was suggested that the new Drain Commissioner be our January 2010 speaker since they were responsible for overseeing this. He would be able to explain the Special Assessments this would necessitate. Chairman Koteles, also, brought the concern

that there were cars parking on 24th street at the time school let out causing a traffic hazard.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 25, 2010 at 7:00 p.m..

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. by Chairman Koteles.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Lou Ramon
Secretary NPC # 10

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**Contact Information For Members:**

Members are encouraged to call the following City Department's directly with any concerns outside of the meeting: The Planning and Community Development department may be reached at 966-3320. For Code Compliance and building permit related issues you may call Supervisor Marcie Gillette (Code) at 966-3387, or Donna (Permits) at 966-3348, or Neighborhood Services at 966-3379. Police Commander Jackie Hampton may be reached by voice mail at 966-3306 ext. 1006 with any police concerns occurring outside of the meeting time.

**Memo:** Please call Chairman Koteles at 963-7096, Vice Chairman Joe Ratti at 969-0636, Secretary Mary Lou Ramon at 963-5101, or Membership Chair Opal Bell at 962-1252; or email the secretary at hercules31@att.net, for an excused absence if you are unable to attend a meeting. No reason need be given to be excused.

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